

REMARKS

The recitation “10-300 parts by weight of a filler” in claims 4, 9 and 13 has been amended to recite “30-300 parts by weight of a filler.” Support for the amendment can be found, for example, in lines 11-12 on page 19 of the specification.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 13, 15 and 16 will be pending.

Claims 4-7, 9-11, 15 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Nishida et al.

Applicants’ claims 4, 9 and 13 have been amended to recite, “the thermoplastic resin contains 30 to 300 parts by weight of a filler to 100 parts by weight of the thermoplastic resin....”

An object of the present invention is to provide a manufacturing method capable of obtaining a film-like material made of a resin and having an excellent appearance (page 2, lines 22-24). Another object of the present invention is to provide a method for producing a film-like material made of a resin and having a high film thickness precision even in the case of using a resin material with a high melt viscosity and a low melt elongation degree, for example, a thermoplastic resin containing a long molecular chain polyolefin (page 3, lines 1-5).

In the present invention, when the thermoplastic material contains 30 to 300 parts by weight of the filler to 100 parts by weight of the thermoplastic resin, not only a film-like material with a desirable film thickness precision can be obtained, but also the rigidity of the obtained film-like material becomes excellent, whereas in the conventional method no film with a good

film thickness precision is obtained because of the occurrence of problems such as melt fracture or void(hole) formation, just like a reed screen.

On the contrary, the object of the invention disclosed in Nishida is to provide a practically acceptable film containing a ring-opened structure of 2-oxetanone as its main structural component, excellent in biodegradability, mechanical properties and processibility (col. 3, line 46-50).

Nishida discloses a melt extrusion film containing a filler in the amount that the film properties are not impaired. The filler can be selected from known fillers, while an inorganic filler is preferred. Particularly, a salt of an alkaline earth metal is more preferred since it serves to stabilize the biodegradable polyester of the present invention (col. 6, lines 50-56). Nishida discloses that the amount of filler is incorporated preferably in an amount of up to 20% by weight based on the biodegradable polyester.

Additionally, Example 17 in Nishida discloses that poly(2-oxetanone) particles were mixed with 5% by weight of talc (filler) based on the poly(2-oxetanone) (col. 29, Example 17).

In view of the foregoing, it is clear that the amount of filler disclosed in Nishida is outside Applicants' claimed range of filler (col. 7, lines 8-10). Accordingly, Nishida does not anticipate the claimed invention.

In addition, Applicants' film-like material is prepared by rolling.

On the contrary, in Example 17 in Nishida, the film is prepared by T-die extrusion and the unstretched film was stretched in the machine direction with a heating roll disposed between a slow-rotation (front) roll and a fast-rotation (back) roll to prepare monoaxially roll-stretched

films (Sample Nos. 14 to 16). Table 7 shows temperatures of the heating roll and stretch ratios (col. 29, line 66 to col. 30, line 4).

As described in the specification, when a T-die molding method or an inflation molding method is used, the film thickness precision of the molded film is insufficient and especially in the case of producing a film from a resin with a high melt viscosity and a hardly formable resin with a low melt elongation degree, the film thickness precision is significantly deteriorated and these methods cannot be said a proper molding method as a manufacturing method of a film or a sheet required to provide a high film thickness precision (page 2, lines 13-20 of the specification). Thus, since Nishida uses a T-die molding method, the film precision of the molded film in Nishida would be insufficient.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 4-7, 9-11, 13, 15 and 16 would not be anticipated or rendered obvious based on Nishida. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

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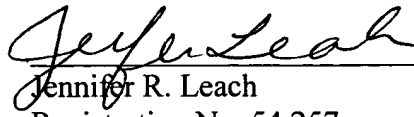
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